

## “War” prepares wing for inspection

**By Senior Airman Tim Lockwood**

*Public Affairs Officer  
153rd Airlift Wing*

In one of the largest exercises for the 153rd Airlift Wing in recent years, the guard shined bright.

The Wyoming Air National Guard sent 335 people to spend five days at Volk Air Field, Wis., Aug. 16 – 20, in heavy preparation for the unit’s upcoming Inspector General Exercise, scheduled for the end of October in Savannah, Ga.

Despite hot weather and daunting obstacles set in their way during the Volk Field Operational Readiness Inspection, or ORI, the Wyoming Air National Guard proved that they have what it takes to be the best.

“Volk was intense. It was as rapid fire a scenario as possible,” 153rd Airlift Wing Commander Col. Harold Reed said. “We were put in the worst possible positions and situations.

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*Photo by Master Sgt. Trudy Woodcock*  
**Staff Sgt. Tom Fox, a fire fighter with the 153rd Civil Engineer Squadron, assists a victim after a simulated chemical attack during the Wyoming Air National Guard’s Operational Readiness Inspection at Volk Air Field, Wis., in August.**

## Guernsey robot test successful

**By Master Sgt. Trudy Woodcock**

*Public Affairs Specialist  
Wyoming National Guard*

In excess of 150 people were on hand to view the first Department of Defense Joint Robotics Program field test held at Camp Guernsey on July 30.

The field test investigated the benefits of unmanned systems to enhance military force protection capabilities in an austere and hostile environment. There were a few glitches, but that was all part of the testing.

Someone walking up on the event probably thought that a bunch of remote controlled toys were left in Guernsey’s North Training Range to run rampant. But those toys actually perform the many

security functions designed to protect America’s armed forces. They included:

- SCOUT. A four-wheeler that can be driven by an individual or controlled remotely. It talks to an intruder, has a Squad Automatic Weapon mounted rifle, and sprays pepper spray with marking dye if the intruder does not surrender.
- ARTS. A modified Bobcat that can detect, analyze, and render safe large vehicle bombs and clear unexploded ordinance from prepared areas.

The unmanned vehicles will become the new eyes and ears of the military, allowing forces to better control the battlefield, to precisely target the enemy, and minimize the probability of U.S. troop casualties. They are small, lightweight, agile and

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# Wyoming partners with Tunisia

By Staff Sgt. Tim Marquez

Public Affairs Specialist

Wyoming National Guard

The National Guard Bureau has selected Tunisia, a country on Africa's northern coast, as Wyoming's State Partnership Program country. The program promotes military and civil agency interaction to build lasting relationships with countries around the world.

Col. Steve Smith, Wyoming National Guard joint chief of staff, provides oversight of the state's program. His team includes Capt. Steve Alkire, the SPP coordinator in Cheyenne, and Maj. Kurt Smith, the bilateral affairs officer in Tunisia.

Wyoming National Guard command will visit Tunisia in November. Tunisian government officials are expected to visit Wyoming in 2005. These coordination visits ultimately will lead to military exchanges, training opportunities and civilian partnerships within Wyoming and Tunisia.

## Tunisia

**Political background:** Became independent from France in 1956 with Habib Bourguiba as its president. Current president is Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

**Population:** Approximately 9.9 million, with 1 million living in the capital, Tunis. Ninety-eight percent of the population is Arab. Primary religion, practiced by 98 percent of the population, is Islam.

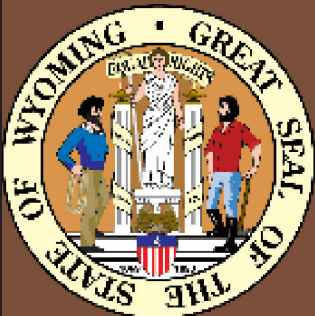
**Language:** Official language is Arabic, but French is widely used.

**Economy:** Per capita income is \$2,240. Unemployment rate is 15 percent. Gross Domestic Product is \$24.3 billion.

**Area:** 63,176 square miles, similar to the state of Georgia.

**Climate:** Temperate in the north; rainy winters, hot, dry summers; desert in the south. Mountains in the north, dry central plain, and a semiarid south merging into the Sahara Desert.

**More information:** The CIA World Fact Book, <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ts.html>.



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# Teamwork: Key to exercise's success

## Volk

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and mentors.”

Reed said the intensity and hard work will be worth it, when the wing is called to real world action.

“I want our people to be prepared to go to war and come back alive,” he said. “That is what this is all about.”

Many guard members said they agreed the exercise provided some challenges and tested abilities. However, it also provided some excellent practice.

“We had to deal with a lot of scenarios and they all were very realistic,” said Capt. Nicole Chavez. “We had the opportunity to practice a lot of scenarios,” she said. “We got good. We had to practice with all our gear and for some longer periods of time.”

She said another great takeaway from Volk was the great teamwork she experienced.

“There were so many squadrons and each one

“But we proved why I believe we are the best airlift wing in the world,” he said. “We are leading the way as role models

chipped in to help make it a success,” Chavez said. “You could feel a real sense of family among the members of the 153rd.”

For Tech. Sgt. Mike Pinter, who spent the exercise outside the war zone, it was no less hectic.

Pinter and Master Sgt. Randy Randall were weapon custodians for the ORE and were responsible for issuing weapons to anyone who participated.

“We learned so much and we got to know a lot of the people in the unit,” Pinter said. “By the end of the exercise, we knew everyone that was there by personal recognition.”

He said the biggest challenge was time management. “The hardest thing for us was just trying to make sure we could process everyone in an efficient and orderly manner. But after the first day, everything started to flow like a knife through butter.”

That was the result Col. Reed said he wanted.

“Our people really got into it,” he said. “I am very happy with how Volk went and what we accomplished.”

## Unique deployment environment stresses teamwork

### *Air Guard personnel share aircraft and duties with other units supporting OIF.*

By Maj. Tom Jackson

Public Affairs Officer

Wyoming Air National Guard Headquarters

The Wyoming Air National Guard has been supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in the Central Command area of operations for more than nine months. The unit's commitment to provide airlift support in the area continues through 2005. Lt. Col. Steve Rader, 153rd Operations Group commander, answered the following questions about the wing's deployment.

Q: Explain the organizational structure under which the Wyoming Air National Guard personnel operate.

A: Our units fall under the overall theater command of Central Air Force. Below that is the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing. The 386th AEW is composed of Air National Guard units from Wyoming, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio and Texas and Air Force Reserve units from Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. The wing's operations squadron schedules

the aircraft and personnel required to support daily airlift support requirements. Most missions fall into an 8-16 hour length, with individual air crew available to fly every other day. Aircraft are shared and flown by air crew from the different units. It takes a lot of teamwork to make this happen.

Q: What type of missions are Wyoming Air Guard members supporting?

A: Our aircraft and personnel have been supporting missions such as re-supply, troop movements, and air evacuation missions. Our missions can take us anywhere in theater – Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa.

In addition to the workload associated with these missions, there is always the underlying stress of the threat of small arms fire, rocket propelled grenades, and surface to air missiles. Our air crew training, as well as the modern protection available on the C-130, helps us to be as prepared as possible for these threats. Our air crew and aircraft have performed exceptionally well in all areas.

Our maintenance support has been awesome. The 386th AEW mission capable rate has been as much as 30 percent higher compared to active duty

**See Rader**

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*Teenagers learned the value of teamwork during the teen retreat held on Casper Mountain during the family conference. Here the group is shown performing a variety of gestures as punishment for not paying attention to the instructor during one team building exercise.*

**Photos by  
Master Sgt. Trudy  
Woodcock and  
Staff Sgt. Tim Marquez**



*Above a group of children listen attentively to a story during the Wyoming National Guard State Family Readiness Workshop in Casper Sept. 17-19. Older children, right, entertained themselves on the miniature golf course at the Parkway Plaza, a few blocks away from the Radisson Hotel.*



*Above a member of the U.S. Air Force Academy's Wings of Blue Parachute Jump Team prepares to land in front of a crowd of onlookers at the July 28 Wyoming Air National Guard Open House.*

## Open house and family conference deemed successful summer events

The two main summer events hosted by the Wyoming National Guard went off without a hitch.

The Wyoming Air National Guard open house, held on Cheyenne Day, brought more than 4,000 local residents and Cheyenne Frontier Days tourists to the base. Static aircraft displays, parachute demonstrations and precision flying were only some of the activities available.

The July 28 event was the highest attended open house in a number of years.

In September, the annual Wyoming National Guard State Family Readiness Program workshop treated more than 330 people to a weekend of fun and camaraderie.

"I would say it was a success," said Bill Breckenridge, state program coordinator.

Teenagers spent Friday night on Casper Mountain getting to know one another; the adults did the same thing, meeting new and old friends at the conference's main location, the Radisson Inn, in Casper.

The teenagers stayed on the mountain for the weekend. The adults were treated to a number of educational breakout sessions, teaching them how to change a tire, introducing them to reflexology and learning more about the Wyoming National Guard.

On Sunday morning, Wyoming State Sen. John Schiffer and Wyoming State Rep. Tom Walsh received awards from the National Guard Association of the United States.

The awards honored the legislators' efforts to create a trust fund designed to assist families of deployed military personnel in times of financial hardship. 



*Above a Wyoming Air National Guard C-130 crew demonstrates their aerial fire fighting ability during the organization's open house. The Wyoming Air National Guard operates two Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems for the U.S. Forest Service.*



# ANG deployment rotations key to success

**Rader**  
From Page 3

wings fulfilling the same mission. Our maintenance team has done an outstanding job keeping the planes flying.

Q: The Wyoming Army National Guard also has members deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Is there any contact with the Wyoming soldiers?

A: We don't normally get the opportunity to see our Wyoming Army National Guard counterparts; but whenever we conduct an aircraft and personnel rotation, we bring supplies with us to support them.

Q: What are the living conditions like and what is available to help pass the time?

A: Our maintenance personnel are billeted in tents, although much nicer ones than those on our Operation Enduring Freedom deployment. The operations personnel are billeted in what are essentially double wide trailers. Although there is not



**Lt. Col. Steve Rader,**  
**153rd Operations**  
**Group commander**

a lot to do on base, many people do work out at the gym or have a running program. Also, there is a movie theater and DVDs are available for checkout.

Q: Compare the Operation Enduring Freedom deployment to this deployment?

A: Our activation for Operation Enduring Freedom started as an open-ended commitment, with many personnel being gone for 120 days, returning home for a short break, and then returning to theater for another 120 days. The uncertainty of the time we would be gone was difficult. The plus side was that we deployed as a unit, which created a big sense of camaraderie.

Our current deployment is much different in that we have 60-day rotations and people know that up front. The flip side is that since our presence is smaller, it may be more challenging to build the camaraderie, but overall I see a much higher morale level in the current setup.

We believe the rotation cycle is key to our long-term ability to support this and future missions, and will create the best environment for our families and civilian employers. ~

## Wyoming National Guard briefs and updates

### Oedekoven chosen as next

#### Assistant Adjutant General – Army

Col. Olin Oedekoven has been selected as the Wyoming Military Department's next Assistant Adjutant General – Army.

Oedekoven will replace Brig. Gen. Art Dillon when Dillon retires in January 2006.

Oedekoven's full-time civilian employment is with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. He serves as a district wildlife biologist in Gillette.

### Meyer promoted to colonel

Rita C. Meyer, 153rd Mission Support Group commander, has been promoted to Colonel. As commander of the 153rd Mission Support Group, Meyer oversees the 153rd Civil Engineering Squadron, 153rd Security Forces Squadron, 153rd Services Flight and 153rd Communications Flight.

During her career Meyer was activated in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and served as an operations officer for aeromedical control squadrons in Rhein Mein Air Base, Germany, and Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

### Army National Guard engineers mobilized

The 133rd Engineer Company, Combat Support Equipment, of Laramie, was ordered on Aug. 22 to mobilize its 162 soldiers for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After initial processing at home station, the soldiers will report to Fort Lewis, Wash. on Nov. 3, for pre-deployment training. The soldiers will be performing engineer and construction operations at overseas locations. The 133rd Engineer Company has members from across Wyoming.

### Wyoming National Guard receives grant

The Wyoming National Guard has received funding to create a National Guard Reaction Force as part of its continuing homeland defense efforts.

The \$297,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security will train Wyoming National Guard personnel to be ready on short notice to protect Wyoming's critical infrastructure, by providing site security, patrols, check points, security and other duties as situations warrant.

Wyoming's governor will have the authority to activate the reaction force for state emergencies.

# Promotions and retirements

Promotions and retirements processed during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2004:

## ARNG promotions

*Pfc. Alex Carmody*  
*Pfc. Allen Simonson*  
*Pfc. Alycia Brantz*  
*Pfc. Blake Spiegelberg*  
*Pfc. Brad Lowry*  
*Pfc. Brady Salvesson*  
*Pfc. Brian Wilson*  
*Pfc. Brock Jolley*  
*Pfc. Cody Hess*  
*Pfc. Darel Peacock*  
*Pfc. David Wells*  
*Pfc. David Wolfe*  
*Pfc. Debi Marchant*  
*Pfc. Eric Becker*  
*Pfc. Gabriel Bruyere*  
*Pfc. Ian Seyler*  
*Pfc. Ishmael Campbell*  
*Pfc. Joel Robertson*  
*Pfc. Joshua McGurn*  
*Pfc. Matthew Lemieux*  
*Pfc. Matthew Oelrich*  
*Pfc. Michael Mickelson*  
*Pfc. Nash Quinn*  
*Pfc. Nathaniel Harvey*  
*Pfc. Patrick Sparks*  
*Pfc. Richard Adams*  
*Pfc. Samuel Bloom*  
*Pfc. Shane Kester*  
*Pfc. William Kirlin*  
*Spc. Michael Lackey*  
*Spc. Daniel Gisoldi*  
*Spc. Carl Denner*  
*Spc. Chad Glick*  
*Spc. Chancy Elkins*  
*Spc. Charlotte Bohren*  
*Spc. Corrie Bentley*  
*Spc. Cynthia Johnson*  
*Spc. Eric Moore*  
*Spc. Gregory Osler*  
*Spc. Heike Mace*  
*Spc. Jason Pepin*  
*Spc. Joseph Walker*  
*Spc. Joshua Buettner*  
*Spc. Kody Klein*  
*Spc. Matthew Coughanour*  
*Spc. Paul Buettner*  
*Spc. Raymond McCoy*  
*Spc. Robert Hawk*  
*Spc. Shawn Hauf*  
*Spc. Theron Sax*  
*Spc. Warren James*  
*Sgt. Louis Nagel*  
*Sgt. Robert Owen*  
*Sgt. Travis Obermire*  
*Sgt. Benjamin Clark*

*Sgt. Bryan Haselhuhn*  
*Sgt. Camille Feehan*  
*Sgt. Casey Henry*  
*Sgt. Christopher Urman*  
*Sgt. Craig Krantz*  
*Sgt. Deah Dickerson*  
*Sgt. Del Holmquist*  
*Sgt. Denton Newlin*  
*Sgt. Emily Garrett*  
*Sgt. Eric Henderson*  
*Sgt. Floyd Whiting*  
*Sgt. Heather Sargent*  
*Sgt. James Casteel*  
*Sgt. Jimmy Boles*  
*Sgt. Joel Rasanen*  
*Sgt. Johnny Walker*  
*Sgt. Jon Rychecky*  
*Sgt. Jorge Lopez*  
*Sgt. Kelly Cobb*  
*Sgt. Laura Roberts*  
*Sgt. Nathan Hansen*  
*Sgt. Richard Jennings*  
*Sgt. Riley Robbins*  
*Sgt. Roger Clark*  
*Sgt. Ryan Schuh*  
*Sgt. Scott Ross*  
*Sgt. Shawn Packham*  
*Sgt. Shawn Rand*  
*Sgt. Stephen Keefer*  
*Sgt. Troy Phillips*  
*Sgt. William Rothleutner*  
*Sgt. Zachariah Semmons*  
*Sgt. Zachary Welchman*  
*Sgt. Zachery Whiteman*  
*Staff Sgt. Douglas Fenton*  
*Staff Sgt. Dale Fowler*  
*Staff Sgt. Donnie Craig*  
*Staff Sgt. Jason Habel*  
*Staff Sgt. John Connolly*  
*Staff Sgt. Joshua Hepworth*  
*Staff Sgt. Matthew Vonfeldt*  
*Staff Sgt. Orlando Cepeda*  
*Staff Sgt. Richard Saucedo*  
*Staff Sgt. Steven Atencio*  
*Staff Sgt. William Walter*  
*Sgt. 1st Class Dale Willis*  
*Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Boicourt*  
*Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shellie Franklin*  
*1st Lt. John Quigley*  
*1st Lt. Toby Alkire*  
*Capt. Aaron Kelsey*  
*Capt. Ardell Schuler*  
*Capt. Rolando Rodriguez*  
*Capt. Wyatt Kramer*  
*Maj. James Schmidt*  
*Maj. Jonathan Dunn*  
*Lt. Col. Frank Cornelio*  
*Lt. Col. Kenneth Butts*  
*Lt. Col. Tod Larson*

## ANG promotions

*Senior Airman Tonja Youngberg*  
*Senior Airman Joshua Lingelbach*  
*Senior Airman Jared Grill*  
*Senior Airman Christopher McAtee*  
*Senior Airman Laraine Kopetzky*  
*Senior Airman Richard Dennison*  
*Senior Airman Brent Kramer*  
*Senior Airman Shane Smith*  
*Senior Airman Joshua Christner*  
*Senior Airman James Hockenberry*  
*Senior Airman Clifford Johnson*  
*Senior Airman Victoria Lopez*  
*Senior Airman Jedadiah Christensen*  
*Senior Airman Jeremy Lamblin*  
*Staff Sgt. Marshall Barnes, Jr.*  
*Staff Sgt. Mark Nelson*  
*Staff Sgt. Donna Lehmann*  
*Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Dietzel*  
*Staff Sgt. Kevan Johnson*  
*Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Mixon*  
*Tech. Sgt. Ersell Newson*  
*Tech. Sgt. Henry Palmer*  
*Tech. Sgt. Bradley Greer*  
*Tech. Sgt. David Grooters*  
*Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Burton*  
*Tech. Sgt. Jarrett DeMello*  
*Tech. Sgt. Gary Borah, Jr.*  
*Tech. Sgt. Jason Maldonado*  
*Tech. Sgt. Audra Johnson*  
*Master Sgt. Robert Farnham*  
*Master Sgt. Stephen Johnson*  
*Master Sgt. Michael Urban*  
*Master Sgt. Jeffrey Carlson*  
*Master Sgt. Charles Tarter*  
*Master Sgt. Adrienne Sears*  
*Master Sgt. David Weaver*  
*Senior Master Sgt. Donna Atkins*  
*Senior Master Sgt. Gary Wilson*  
*Senior Master Sgt. Robert Born*  
*2nd Lt. Paul Moore*  
*2nd Lt. Christopher Provost*  
*1st Lt. Kurt Anderson*  
*1st Lt. Gustavo Leon, Jr.*  
*Maj. Chad Christianson*  
*Lt. Col. Roy Hockenberry*  
*Col. Rita Meyer*

## ARNG retirements

*Sgt. Bernard Rivera*  
*Sgt. Lee Robertson*  
*Sgt. Darrell Poisson*

## ANG retirements

*Tech. Sgt. Gerald Sanders*  
*Tech. Sgt. Terry Prante*  
*Master Sgt. Carol Thompson*  
*Master Sgt. Shawna Melendez*  
*Senior Master Sgt. Donald Creech*  
*Senior Master Sgt. James Nelson*  
*Senior Master Sgt. Debra Goble*



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Nicole Spence

## Leak busting in the desert

Tech. Sgt. Scott Wagner, 746th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, checks a C-130 for oil leaks on Oct. 18 before sending the plane downrange.

Wagner, a member of the 153rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is forward deployed to Southwest Asia.

The Wyoming Air National Guard is committed to providing airlift support, to include maintenance and transport, for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## Military's future is robotic force

### Robots

From Page 1

mobile vehicles which are the future of military technology.

"Robotics is an emerging technology that will impact the

way in which future wars are fought. Camp Guernsey offers the Joint Robotics Program the opportunity to place robotic prototypes in the hands of their eventual end-users and gain valuable lessons learned," said Col.

Tim Sheppard, Wyoming Army National Guard chief of staff and Camp Guernsey post commander. "For the camp itself, it improves our ability to attract the right customers today and tomorrow."

Sen. Craig Thomas, Wyoming's senior senator, mediated the partnership between DoD, the Wyoming National Guard and the University of Wyoming. He was in Guernsey to view the field test. ∞

## Sergeant Major of the Army visits Camp Guernsey

By Master Sgt. Trudy Woodcock

Public Affairs Specialist  
Wyoming National Guard

Soldiers at Camp Guernsey had a special treat on July 30, a visit from Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston. He came to Wyoming to visit Camp Guernsey, as well as participate in Cheyenne Frontier Days activities.

While visiting with the soldiers, Preston viewed the robotics demonstration, talked to the soldiers, and handed out several coins to Training Site Command, 1041st, and 133rd soldiers for their exceptional efforts. Preston visited with the 1041st and viewed its new equipment, in addition to taking a windshield tour of

Camp Guernsey, and a tour in a UH-60 Blackhawk of the North and South Training Ranges.

While visiting with the soldiers of the 1041st, Preston told them several years ago, active duty units would have received new equipment and the Guard would have gotten equipment from the active duty. "This just goes to show how times have changed and the significance and importance of the Guard has increased," he said.

As Sergeant Major of the Army, Preston serves as the U.S. Army Chief of Staff's personal adviser on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting training and quality of life. He is the highest ranking enlisted member in the U. S. Army. ∞